(d) whether Government propose to give any additional incentives to encourage export of garments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The export of garments amounted to Rs. 23,983 crores during the financial year 1999-2000 as compared to Rs. 22,209 crores during the year 1998-99, recording an increase of 8%.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost garment exports. Some of the important initiatives are as under :—

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.

(2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.

(4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(5) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments has been allowed.

(d) and (e) Government has already been granting various incentives for readymade garment exports, such as Duty Drawback, DEPB credit, duty free import of inputs under Advance Licencing Scheme, duty-free import of essential items of trimmings and embellishments, partial exemption under 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, etc.

Attack on Assam Minister

*536. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to curb insurgency/militancy in North-Eastern States, more particularly in Assam where recently a State Minister was killed and an attempt was made on another Minister, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that militancy is on the increase day by day in North-Eastern Region, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to curb the insurgency which has increased manifold due to enhanced activities of ISI in NE Region after the Kargil operation ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Though militant activities in Manipur and Tripura have shown an increase in recent past, the overall situation in Assam and Nagaland has shown improvement, Other North-Eastern States are by and large peaceful.

The strategy adopted by the Government to improve the situation in the North-East includes a willingness to meet and discuss legitimate grievances; resolve that violence would not be tolerated; friendly relations with neighbouring countries; accelerated infrastructural development; stress on employment; good governance and decentralization.

The Central Government has taken a number of measures to combat militancy in the North-East. These include, *inter alia,* deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the Security Forces; modernisation/upgradation of the State Police Forces; declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful associations; notification of most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas" and sanction of Special Central assistance to the State Governments.

Suspension of operation against the Bodo Liberation Tiger, growing public reaction against militancy and surrender of a large number of militants in Assam are significant developments.

Violence Against Women

*537. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR :
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :